

To: Kluesner, Dave[kluesner.dave@epa.gov]
From: Brian Stan
Sent: Sun 12/29/2013 10:02:59 PM
Subject: Passaic River Cleanup Idea Suggestion - Oyster Farms

Dear Mr. Kluesner,

As a member of a rowing club on the Passaic River in NJ, I've become very interested in finding ways to potentially make the waterfront cleaner and more environmentally friendly.

I am not sure if this suggestion has been given before, but I saw this incredible TED talk about utilizing oyster farms to clean contaminated waters (They are highly considering doing it to the Gowanus Canal in Brooklyn, NY). Oysters are incredible in that they can absorb the toxic pollutants, filter them, and push out clean water. One oyster can filter roughly 50 gallons of water per day - quite impressive if you multiply that by thousands of oysters!

Here is the link to the video if you're interested: http://www.ted.com/talks/kate_orff_oysters_as_architecture.html

Is this something feasible for the Passaic River? I would imagine the costs would be substantially lower in the long run and much more sustainable than doing significant construction (as we've seen this past year).

All the best,

Brian